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Protection for poor young women and girls in the City.

* 32 Q.—DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of young women and girls between the ages of 14 and 18, stray into the City in search of employment, food and shelter and that they very often fall into the hands of traffickers; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to appoint women-patrols to direct them to places of safety or restore them to their guardians or relations, if any?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (a) There have been instances of young girls straying into the Madras City due to the present economic conditions, who eventually fall into the hands of traffickers. Four such girls were saved and sent to the Vigilance Home, Madras.

" (b) The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930 and the rules made thereunder contain provisions in regard to the rescue of girls, by the Police, from the hands of traffickers in women and girls. Under the rules, the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service, also admits into rescue homes or shelter, girls who have been in immoral surroundings or who have been exposed to moral dangers, etc., whenever he is made aware of such cases by respectable persons and philanthropic bodies, provided that the girls in question volunteer to be in such homes. There is no proposal to appoint women-patrols for the purpose as indicated in the question."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Sir, may I know whether the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, will apply only when the girls are found in houses of ill-fame, and that then only the Police will go to the rescue of such girls? May I know whether the police will not take care of girls roaming about in the streets? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Giving power indiscriminately will lead to difficulties. That is why, only when they are able to spot out such girls, the Police have to produce them before the magistrate and get them remanded."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Sir, we want the prevention of girls—innocent girls—coming into the City either for employment or for getting admission into the Service Homes, or for some education, from going into the houses of ill-fame. Prevention is better. Do not the Government feel the need for employing women-patrols? We were doing this work through the old Vigilance Association. Now that has been given up. May I also bring to the notice of Government that many such girls who have come into such homes, when they applied for admission, were refused admission. Even at midnight admission was refused, and we had to take them into our care."

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THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Men personnel will be able to tackle this question more efficiently, because they may have to be out at nights and raid houses. So it is better that the Act is worked as it is now worked."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" We want a better administration of the Act, because many girls have been forced to enter houses of ill-fame for want of guidance and protection in the City."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" If that is brought to the notice of the Government, prompt action will be taken."

SRIMATHI MARY C. CLUBWALA JADHAV :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that there is an organization called the Madras Vigilance Association, which founded and started a Home —just now called the Government Vigilance Home? This organization has been ignored by the Government when it came forward, after the Government have taken over the Home, to offer its services in this line. Repeated requests have met with no help from the Government. Yet this organization is trying to do its best by these girls. Rules and regulations are so tightened that many a girl would go astray if this Association does not come to the rescue. The Association is now suffering from lack of funds. Will the Hon. Minister give an assurance that the Government will take the assistance of this well known organization? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The request will be considered."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" Questions are over."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 16th December 1953, from the Governor of Madras :—

'In pursuance of Article 207, Clause (3) of the Constitution of India, I, Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Appropriation Bill, 1953.'

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE SECOND SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR 1953-54.

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very kind of you to give me the privilege of opening the budget discussion. I am quite sure that this discussion will be of a very high level and will keep to the standards which this House has been accustomed to in the past. It is my hope—but I am not quite sure about it—that the Government also will give due consideration to the suggestions and criticisms made on the floor of this House on the 11-30 a.m.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS